

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Page 3, third full paragraph:

FIG. 1 ~~The sole Figure~~ illustrates the construction of a network according to the invention.

b1 FIG. Figure 1 shows a data terminal 1 from which connections are made to an exchange 2. The exchange 2 contains functions of the SSP and of the SCP. The exchange 2 has a call handling function 6 and a CDR (call detail records)- generating function 7 as well as a cost communication function 8. The exchange 2 is connected to a service management point (SMP) 3. A tariff server 4 and a bill server 5 are arranged in the service management point 3. The service management point (SMP) is also connected to external access units 9 and 9A.

Paragraph bridging pages 3 and 4:

b2 Upon a connection establishment between the data terminal 1 of the subscriber and the exchange 2, the call handling function 6 receives the requested connection data. The call handling function makes an inquiry ~~enquiry~~ to the tariff server 4 about the tariff for the desired connection in a tariff inquiry ~~enquiry~~ 10. In the tariff server the charging rate determination function 13 requests the desired tariff information in a database 14. Information about the subscriber and the subscriber's specific tariff conditions are stored in this database. Via the charging rate determination function 13 of the tariff server 4 the tariff server answers the inquiry ~~enquiry~~ from the call handling function 6 with a tariff response 11. The call handling function 6 forwards the tariff response 11 to the CDR generator 7 and the cost communication function 8 of the exchange 2. This cost communication function 8 sends the information directly to the subscriber's data terminal 1 via a

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signalling channel 15. In this way the tariff for the desired connection is communicated to the subscriber actually prior to the connection establishment. The information is also updated during an existing connection. The CDR generator 7 determines the units already consumed in the current connection. The CDR generator 7 is also connected to a bill server 5. In this bill server 5 the CDR units are collected, processed on the basis of the current tariff, and possibly intermediately stored. The information relating to the accrued units is forwarded to the tariff server 4 via a so-called hot billing channel 12. This information ensures that the current costs are available to the subscriber in the database. The current costs are then forwarded to the exchanges and to the subscriber by means of the tariff inquiry ~~enquiry~~ and tariff response.

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The tariff server 4 also has various access facilities 9 and 9A. Via a service center ~~centre~~ 9 the service provider can access the tariff server 4 and adapt the current subscribers and their current tariffs. An access facility 9 for a personal inquiry ~~enquiry~~ about current personal tariffs is also available to the subscriber in the telecommunications network. This current inquiry ~~enquiry~~ can be made using the data terminal or via the internet using a PC.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. APPLN. NO. 09/659,453
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. Q60663

Please delete the present Abstract of the Disclosure and replace it with the following new Abstract of the Disclosure.

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A ~~The invention is a~~ process for signalling cost information in a telecommunications network, wherein ~~comprising the steps:~~ the subscriber's data terminal (1) establishes a connection to an exchange (2), the exchange has a call handling function (6) which makes a tariff inquiry ~~enquiry~~ (10) to a tariff server (4), and the tariff server sends a tariff response (11) for the requested connection to the call handling function (6) of the exchange. ~~(2), the~~ The call handling function (6) forwards the tariff response (11) to a CDR generating function (7) in the exchange, the CDR generating function (7) forwards cost information to the cost communication function (8) of the exchange (2), and the cost communication function (8) communicates the cost information to the subscriber's data terminal.